Presentation to the QUT Education Faculty

10 June 2014, Kelvin Grove

Professor Marian Simms
ARC Executive Director
The Australian Research Council (ARC) is an independent statutory agency within The Department of Education. The ARC’s main responsibilities are:

• providing funding for research through the competitive funding schemes of the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP);

• providing policy advice on research matters to Government;

• Evaluating research quality in Australia through the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) exercise;

• and, together with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), administering the Australian Research Integrity Committee (ARIC).
Government support for research and development in Australia: 2013-14

- Industry R&D Tax Measures: 19.4%
- Govt. R&D Activities: 7.4%
- DSTO: 4.9%
- Other Science Support: 2.4%
- Energy and the Environment: 2.4%
- Other Business R&D Support: 0.1%
- Other Innovation Support: 5.0%
- Block Funding to Higher Ed.: 21.9%
- Higher Ed. R&D Support: 0.9%
- ARC: 10.2%
- NHMRC and Other Health: 10.9%
- CRCs: 1.7%
- Rural: 3.9%
The ARC

National Competitive Grants Program
$883.9M in 2013-14

Discovery and Fellowships
$551.4 M

Linkage and Centres
$332.4 M

Evaluation and Policy

Excellence in Research for Australia
National Competitive Grants Program

**Discovery Projects**
- Laureate Fellowships: 5%
- Future Fellowships: 16%
- Discovery Projects: 41%
- DECRA: 3%
- Discovery Indigenous

**Linkage Projects**
- Centres of Excellence: 7%
- ITRP
- Linkage Projects: 18%
- Co-Funded & SRI

5 year averages
Discovery projects: Size of scheme and success rates

**Discovery Projects 2008-2014: Success and Return Rates**

- **Number of Proposals**
- **Success Rate**
- **Return Rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Proposals</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
<th>Return Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>3234</td>
<td>56.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>3307</td>
<td>54.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>3143</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>3299</td>
<td>55.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>2756</td>
<td>50.8%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>2693</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>2831</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Unsuccessful**
- **Successful**
- **Return rate**

Graph shows the number of proposals and success rates from 2008 to 2014.
NCGP and Peer Review

- Under larger schemes, such as *Discovery Projects (DP)* and the *Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)*, all five panels of the ARC College convene for selection meetings. In other schemes, such as *Australian Laureate Fellowships* and *Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities* schemes, a single interdisciplinary Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) may be utilised. SAC members may be ARC College members and/or other eminent researchers.

- The five panels are: Biological Sciences and Biotechnology (BSB), Engineering, Mathematics and Informatics (EMI), Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA), Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences (PCE), and Social Behavioural and Economic Sciences (SBE).
Research Opportunity

• The ARC is committed to ensuring all eligible researchers have fair access to competitive funding through the National Competitive Grants Program.

• The ARC considers that Research Opportunity comprises two separate elements:
  – Career experiences (relative to opportunity)
  – Career interruptions

• The new ROPE Statement (released Feb 2014) is online at: http://www.arc.gov.au/applicants/rope_statement.htm
Proportion of proposals received in selected disciplines of SBE (commencement year 2002 and 2013)
Number of proposals received in all schemes, by commencement year
Number of proposals received in DP (commencement year, DECRA not included)
Number of projects funded in DP (DECRA not included), by commencement year
Success rate in DP - commencement year

- COMMERCE...
- EDUCATION
- ECONOMICS
- POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION
- POLITICAL SCIENCE
- PSYCHOLOGY
- SOCIOLOGY
- SBE-All
- SOCIAL WORK
Success rate in *Discovery Projects* and *Linkage Projects* (commencement year 2002 to 2014 – LP14 not available)
Total Success rate in all schemes (start year 2002 to 2014) - (2014 data not available for LP14, FT14, FL14)
Proportion of Rof and /rof type of researchers (including partner investigator) on discovery rejects proposals each year for comparison.
Average number of researchers (including Partner Investigators) on each *Discovery Projects* proposal
Combined success rate by discipline and scheme (proposals between commencement year 2007 to 2013)